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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,997	08/26/2003	Kenneth Mori	0172097	6038

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUNG THANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/649,997	Applicant(s) MORI ET AL.	
	Examiner HUNG T. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 6-7, 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang (US 6050849) in view of Milan (US 6716047).

Regard claim 1, 11: Chang discloses in figure 1, a universal serial bus hub comprising: a housing comprising: a top portion (surface consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031); a bottom portion (opposite with a top portion) opposite the top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031); a first side (a planar consisting elements 105, 101) between the top portion and the bottom portion; and a second side (opposite with the first side) between the top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031) and the bottom portion (opposite with a top portion); a first universal serial bus port (6011) at the top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031); and a second universal serial bus port at the second side.

Change does not disclose a second universal serial bus port at the second side.

Milan discloses in figure 2-3, a second universal serial bus port at the second side.

Change and Milan are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make USB hub.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to make USB hub of Change at the side as taught by Milan.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Chang with Milan for the benefit of having more USB

Regard claim 2: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Change does not disclose a power port at the second side.

Milan discloses a power port at the second side.

Change and Milan are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make USB hub.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to make power port of Change at the second side as taught by Milan.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Chang with Milan for the benefit of supplying power.

Regard claim 6,: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Chang does not disclose the universal serial bus hub is stackable with a second universal serial bus hub; and the second universal serial bus hub is substantially similar to the universal serial bus.

Milan discloses disclose the universal serial bus hub is stackable with a second universal serial bus hub; and the second universal serial bus hub is substantially similar to the universal serial bus.

Chang and Milan are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make USB hubs.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to make USB hubs of Chang as stackable as taught by Milan.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Chang with Milan for the benefit of increase the number of ports.

Regard claim 7: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Chang does not disclose the universal serial bus hub and the second universal serial bus hub are self-aligning when the universal serial bus hub is stacked with the second universal serial bus hub.

Milan discloses the universal serial bus hub and the second universal serial bus hub are self-aligning when the universal serial bus hub is stacked with the second universal serial bus hub.

Chang and Milan are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor to make USB hubs.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to make USB hubs of Chang as self-aligning as taught by Milan.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Chang with Milan for the benefit of keeping hubs in place.

Regard claim 9: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 wherein the first universal serial bus port of the universal serial bus hub is accessible when the second universal serial bus hub is stacked on top of the universal serial bus hub.

Chang does not disclose the first universal serial bus port of the universal serial bus hub is accessible when the second universal serial bus hub is stacked on top of the universal serial bus hub.

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However, it is old and well known for one ordinary person skill in the art to access hubs for interconnection.

Regard claim 10: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Chang does not disclose the universal serial bus hub of claim 1 further comprising: a status indicator at the first side.

However, it is old and well known for one ordinary skill in the art to make a status indicator to easily visualize the mode of the device.

Regard claim 12: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Chang does not disclose at least a portion of the first side comprises a translucent material.

However, it is old and well known for one ordinary skill in the art to device by translucent material just for the decoration.

Regard claim 13: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Chang does not disclose the universal serial bus hub further comprising: a status indicator at the first side (explain in claim 10); and a power port at the second side (explain in claim 2), the status indicator is visible through the portion of the first side (explain in claim 10); and the status indicator indicates a status of at least one of the power port (explain in claim 2), the first universal serial bus port, and the second universal serial bus port.

However, it is old and very well known for one ordinary skill in the art to make indicators on the hubs to show what modes are in active.

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Regard claim 14: Chang discloses all the elements of the universal serial bus hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Chang does not disclose at least a portion of the housing comprises a rubberized material.

However it is old and very well know for one ordinary skill in the art to make housing by rubberized material because it is cheap, good insulation.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/22/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

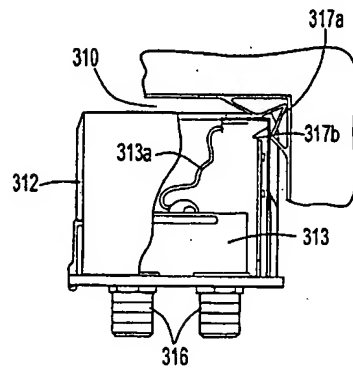
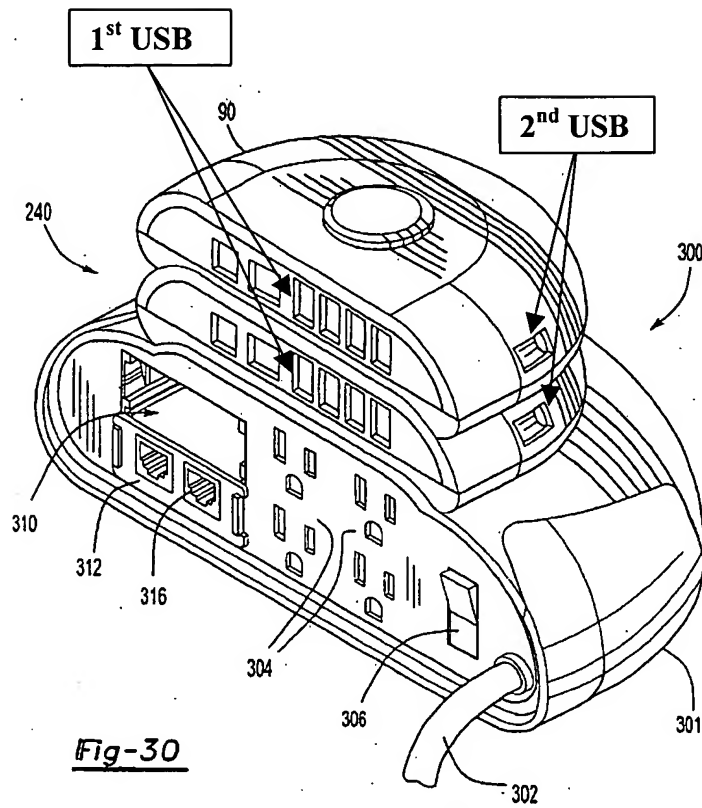
Regard claim 1: applicant argues that a first USB port at a first surface and a second USB port at a different surface of a USB hub". This argument is not found to be persuasive because Milan teaches first USB port (element 138, figures 18-20) at a first surface and the second USB port at a different surface of a USB hub (element 24). In addition, Milan also teaches the second USB port at a different surface of a USB hub as show in figure pasted below.

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Regard claim 2, 6-7, 9-14: applicant does not argue so rejection reasons are the same as stated in the First Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-22 are allowed.

Regard claim 15: Chang in view of Milan discloses the universal serial bus hub wherein a housing comprising: a top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031) having a first region (outer region of third opening, 104 in figure 1) located higher (outer region is shown higher than inner region, see figure 1) than a second region (inner region of third opening 104, consisting of element 50 in figure 1); a bottom portion (opposite with a top portion) opposite the top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031); a first side (a planar consisting elements 105, 101) between the top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031) and the bottom portion (opposite with a top portion); and a second side (opposite with the first side) between the top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031) and the bottom portion (opposite with a top portion)

Chang and Milan do not disclose a hole is located between the first side and the second side and extends from the top portion to the bottom portion. There would be no motivation to make this modification.

Claims 3-5, 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regard claim 3, 8: Chang in view of Milan disclose all elements of a universal serial hub as described above with respect claim 1 except, Chang and Milan do not teach the first universal serial bus port is at the first region. There would be no motivation to make this modification.

Regard claim 4: Chang in view of Milan disclose all elements of a universal serial hub as described above with respect to claim 1 except, Chang and Milan don't disclose a hole is located between the first side and the second side and extends from the top portion to the bottom portion. There would be no motivation to make this modification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Relevant Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Varga Donald (US D421962) teaches the USB hub, Tong Eric (US 6141221) teaches the universal bus docking station, Chung Ming Tsai (US 6085925) teaches the Housing for network products.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

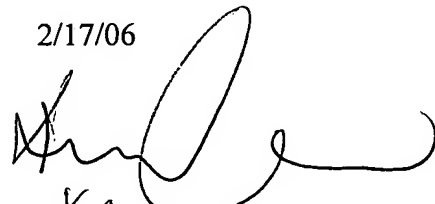
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-5983. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KAMMIE CUNEO can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

HUNG THANH NGUYEN

HN

2/17/06



K Cuneo
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